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Emergency Vehicles and Security Escorts

Did YOU Know



In 2010, slips, trips and falls accounted for more than 40 percent of NASA's lost time injury mishaps. Of those injuries, 75 percent were falls on the same level, or slips and trips that injured but did not result in a fall. Most injuries took place during normal activities rather than high-risk operations. To tackle this systemic problem, we need to find and mitigate trip hazards when feasible, while keeping ourselves mindful and vigilant of changing conditions, whether it's a physical limitation or changing environment. Click on the picture below to view a NASA Safety Center video that provides an in-depth look at slips, trips and falls throughout the agency, while focusing on parking lots, vehicles, inside the office, distractions, and stairs.



Click on picture

A KSC employee recently contacted *Lookout* to express concern about drivers on center property who often fail to follow established protocol with respect to emergency vehicles. The employee witnessed three instances where privately owned vehicle operators obstructed the path of oncoming emergency or security escort vehicles causing those drivers to take evasive action.

Florida Statute 316.126 "Operation of vehicles and actions of pedestrians on approach of authorized emergency vehicle" states:

- 1)(a) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle, while en route to meet an existing emergency, the driver of every other vehicle shall, when such emergency vehicle is giving audible signals by siren, exhaust whistle, or other adequate device, or visible signals by the use of displayed blue or red lights, yield the right-of-way to the emergency vehicle and shall immediately proceed to a position parallel to, and as close as reasonable to the closest edge of the curb of the roadway, clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, unless otherwise directed by any law enforcement officer.
- (b) When an authorized emergency vehicle making use of any visual signals is parked or a wrecker displaying amber rotating or flashing lights is performing a recovery or loading on the roadside, the driver of every other vehicle, as soon as it is safe:
 1. Shall vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle or wrecker when driving on an interstate highway or other highway with two or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency vehicle or wrecker, except when otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer.
 2. Shall slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour or greater; or travel at 5 miles per hour when the posted speed limit is 20 miles per hour or less, when driving on a two-lane road, except when otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer.

The statute also states that violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as either a moving violation or as a pedestrian violation. According to the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles website and the Brevard County Clerk of Courts, a moving violation could result in at least 3 points against your license and a fine of more than \$100.

KSC adopts the vehicular and pedestrian traffic laws of the state of Florida, as set forth in Florida Statute 316, "State Uniform Traffic Control." Violations may be enforced by the issuance of KSC citations, assessment of points, and suspension and revocation of KSC driving privileges. Additional administrative disciplinary actions may be taken against federal and contractor employees, as well.

**SLOW DOWN, FOLLOW TRAFFIC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS,
AND MAKE WAY FOR EMERGENCY AND OPERATIONAL ESCORT VEHICLES!!!**

If you have questions, comments, or a topic you would like to see addressed:
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